

WANDERERS BREAK THAT JINX AT LAST!

First League Win In Mid-Week Game

SIGHS of relief went around Loakes Park as the referee signalled the end of Wednesday evening's game against St. Albans City. The jinx had been broken. Wycombe Wanderers had won an Isthmian League game at last.

After 270 minutes of arduous play without a point to show for it, the team had gained their first victory, 3-1. In a breath-taking 45 minutes before the interval Wycombe Wanderers showed that, despite the earlier disappointments of the season, they were still a force to be reckoned with, taking a 3-1 lead and maintaining it in the second half, when St. Albans had only nine fit men.

George Pullin took over as link-man from John Beck in this game — and what an improvement it made in the team, writes "Nova". Pullin scored two goals and his mobility and stamina helped to form a most energetic and dangerous partnership with Dave Thomas.

Apart from this, the other most pleasing feature about the game was the showing of new left-winger, 20-years-old Paul Hodges, who was making his debut. His wholehearted display, fast running and hard shooting with either foot quickly made him a favourite with the Wanderers' supporters.

Wycombe kicked-off against a St. Albans team of only eight men. Three of their players had been held up and did not reach the ground until seconds before the kick-off. All three were on the field within four minutes.

But before they had had time to settle down Wycombe had taken the lead. Thomas started the move and Horseman slipped through a fine pass for Bassett to push it round goalkeeper Locker into the net.

RIGHT TACTICS

One could sense that with this goal the nervousness displayed in previous games was ebbing away. At a pace much faster than usual the ball was quickly moved from man to man with short, sharp passes.

As soon as the Wanderers realised that newcomer Hodges had the beating of full-back Coleman, they applied their pressure to this point. These

tactics paid off and the reward was a second goal.

Hodges swept across the penalty area and stabbed a pass to Pullin, whose first-time shot was deflected by a defender inches wide of the diving Locker.

All the luck that was going went to Wycombe and only a few minutes later a burst from Len Worley and a pass from Horseman let in Pullin again to shoot home his second goal and Wycombe's third.

Herbie Smith, the one St. Albans forward not afraid to go for goal, pulled back one goal on the stroke of half-time, but their task seemed beyond them even by then.

TWO INJURED

When they reappeared after a shortened interval, their chances seemed even more remote, as they had two 'crocks' in the forward line—left-half Alan McDonnell and right-back Tom Coleman, both suffering from pulled muscles.

Surprisingly, however, the reshuffled St. Albans side held out well, especially in a desperate 20-minute spell midway through the half. Then Bassett, Horseman and Pullin all got into scoring positions. But they seemed in no apparent mood to take advantage of the situation and the whole game petered out to a dull finish.

Wycombe: C. Bunting; J. Beck, A. Lewis; G. Pullin, P. Royston, C. Gale; L. Worley, D. Bassett, D. Thomas, T. Horseman, P. Hodges.

St. Albans: M. Locker; T. Coleman, T. Ferry, P. Wood, D. Bromley, A. McDonnell; E. Rolfe, H. Smith, B. Nesbit, K. Dowler.